THE PLAIN DEALER

WASHINGTON

Trump impeached

President Donald Trump departs from the White House on Wednesday for a campaign event in Battle Creek, Michigan. After fierce debate, the House of Representatives voted Wednesday to impeach the president on two articles of impeachment. *Mark Wilson, Getty Images*

Donald J. Trump is just the third U.S. president to be impeached, and now he'll face a trial in the Senate

MORE COVERAGE, A7

Sabrina Eaton *seaton@cleveland.com*

WASHINGTON — Months of rancor over the propriety of President Donald Trump's request that Ukraine investigate former Vice President Joe Biden culminated Wednesday in a historic House of Representatives vote to impeach Trump on charges of abusing his power and obstructing a congressional investigation.

All but two of the Democrats in the House of Representatives voted to impeach Trump for abusing his power, making him only the third president in U.S. history to face proceedings that could lead to his removal from office in the unlikely event that the Republican-controlled Senate votes to oust him. If that happens, he'd be the first president in U.S. history to be expelled.

Ohio's Democrats all voted for Trump's removal, while the state's Republicans voted against it.

In a speech on the House of Representatives floor, Toledo Democratic Rep. Marcy Kaptur said Trump aided the agenda of Russian President Vladimir Putin by "withholding vital military aid from Ukraine to coerce its interference and our 2020 elections for Mr. Trump's personal gain."

"Vote for the articles of impeachment," she urged her colleagues.

In his own floor speech, Holmes County Republican Bob Gibbs called the impeachment drive "politics at its worst."

"It's disgraceful," he continued. "It's time to end this charade and scam on the American people. I urge everybody to vote no on these articles of impeachment."

Champaign County Republican Jim Jordan called the impeachment process "unfair, dangerous and "harmful to our country."

"Democrats have never accepted the will of the American people ... the 63 million folks who voted for this guy and made him president in an Electoral College landslide," Jordan said on the House of Representatives floor. "They've never accepted that fact. We are less than 11 months away from the election. Let the American people decide who should be president."

Bainbridge Township Republican Rep. Dave Joyce cited his background as Geauga County's prosecutor in a statement that condemned an impeachment inquiry "where due process was neglected, the majority of the testimony provided was secondhand, partisan presumptions were presented as facts and proof of impeachable acts was not articulated. If I were to vote in favor of the two articles of impeachment today, I would be setting a dangerous precedent for our country moving forward."

Freshman Republican Anthony Gonzalez of Rocky River released a statement that said the impeachment was based on "hearsay and speculation," and said he feared it would lower the bar for future impeachments.

"The impeachment of President Trump is unique in American history because it represents the first impeachment in our nation's history where not a single piece of direct evidence of criminal action has been presented or alleged," Gonzalez said. "House Democrats are not accusing the President of breaking a single law. Rather they are accusing him of 'abuse of power,' a concept so subjective that it must require the highest standard of direct proof. On this, the House majority has failed."

In a Tuesday letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Trump denied any wrongdoing, likened the proceedings to the Salem Witch Trials and said impeachment "represents an unprecedented and unconstitutional abuse of power." He accused Democrats of turning "a policy disagreement between two branches of government into an impeachable offense," and of being unwilling to accept his win in the 2016 presidential election.

"You are the ones interfering in America's elections," his letter said. "You are the ones subverting America's Democracy. You are the ones Obstructing Justice. You are the ones bringing pain and suffering to our Republic for your own selfish personal, political, and partisan gain."

SEE IMPEACHMENT, A6

Supporters wait in line Wednesday outside the Kellogg Arena to see President Donald Trump speak at his "Merry Christmas" rally in Battle Creek, Michigan. *Scott Olson, Getty Images*

ELECTION 2020

Tim Hagan will face a challenge

After coasting to easy re-election since he first won his congressional seat in 2002, Niles-area Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan will face his toughest challenge in years from former Republican state legislator Christina Hagan. **A3**

SPORTS

Cavaliers beat Hornets

Cleveland races to a 24-point lead, then holds on to edge Charlotte, 100-98, as Collin Sexton scores a team-high 23 points on 10-of-14 from the field. Kevin Love added 16 points and 14 rebounds. Cedi Osman added 18. **B1**

HEALTH

Clinic offers paid parental leave

Mothers who work at the Cleveland Clinic will receive eight weeks of maternity leave following childbirth, as well as four weeks of parental leave. The other parent will receive four weeks of parental leave. **A4**

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